

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3852

S E C R E T SANTIAGO 1297

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, MASS OVIP (PRATS, CARLOS)

SUBJECT: DESIRE OF GEN. PRATS FOR STOPOVER IN WASHINGTON ON WAY
TO USSR

1. GENERAL PRATS THIS MORNING CALLED IN THE CHIEF OF OUR MILGRP ARMY SECTION, COL. CARLOS URRUTIA. PRATS SAID HE HAS BEEN INVITED ONCE AGAIN TO VISIT THE SOVIET UNION AND THAT HE NOW HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO ACCEPT. TIME FRAME IS FIRST THREE WEEKS OF MAY. HE ASKED IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE FOR PERSONAL INTERVIEW WITH GENERAL ABRAMS DURING STOPOVER IN WASHINGTON ON THE WAY. PRATS SAID HE WISHED DISCUSS WITH THE CHIEF OF STAFF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO ARMIES, PARTICULARLY TO CLARIFY QUESTION OF " CREDITS." HE ADDED THOUGHT THAT STOPOVER MIGHT ALSO BE USED FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH USG OF OUTSTANDING BILATERAL PROBLEMS, AND IT WAS " NOT IMPOSSIBLE" PRESIDENT ALLENDE MIGHT WISH HIM TO DO SO. PRATS CONCLUDED BY REQUESTING INTERVIEW WITH ME TOMORROW (BEFORE GOING ON LEAVE) IN ORDER REVIEW THESE PROPOSALS, NOTING THAT HE WAS PASSING THEM ON TO COLONEL URRUTIA SO THAT THEY WOULD NOT HIT ME " ALTOGETHER COLD."

2. I SENT WORD BACK THAT IT WOULD BE A PLEASURE TO HAVE THE GENERAL FOR LUNCH TOMORROW AT THE RESIDENCE. HE HAS ACCEPTED.

3. RE ABRAMS INTERVIEW, I WOULD PROPOSE SUGGESTING TO PRATS ADVISABILITY OF GIVING US DETAILED INFORMATION ON ANY REQUESTS HE MAY INTEND TO PRESENT. I WOULD POINT OUT THAT ADVANCE REVIEW WITHIN US GOVT WILL BE NECESSARY IF GENERAL ABRAMS IS TO BE IN POSITION PROVIDE MEANINGFUL RESPONSE. I HAVE IN MIND THAT PRATS HOPES TO
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OBTAIN ASSURANCES OF FUTURE US MILITARY ASSISTANCE BEFORE
FACING WHAT HE PROBABLY EXPECTS WILL BE INSISTENT SOVIET OFFERS.

4. WITH RESPECT TO NOTION OF ENTERING INTO TALKS ON LARGER
BILATERAL ISSUES, I MIGHT OBSERVE THAT USG WOULD FIND IT
DIFFICULT TO TREAT COMPLEX POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES
MEANINGFULLY WITH THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE CHILEAN ARMY.
IT WOULD BE MY PURPOSE TO SUGGEST THAT PRATS SHOULD CONSIDER
ADVISABILITY OF MAINTAINING SEPARATE NATURE OF MILITARY RELATION-
SHIP, AVOIDING ISSUES WHICH ARE NOT WITHIN HIS OFFICIAL COMPETENCE.
I WOULD ALSO ATTEMPT CONVEY THOUGHT THAT IT MIGHT BE BETTER
FOR PRATS TO REFRAIN FROM INVOLVING HIS AND ARMY'S PRESTIGE IN
AN UNCERTAIN AND AD HOC POLITICAL MISSION.

5. I WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS OR GUIDANCE DEPT MAY HAVE.
DAVIS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SANTIA01297
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730341/aaaailkd.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <07 FEB 2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980107
Subject: DESIRE OF GEN. PRATS FOR STOPOVER IN WASHINGTON ON WAY TO USSR
TAGS: MASS, OVIP, CI, (PRATS, CARLOS)
To: SECSTATE WASHDC
SS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005